

Message Text

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17

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 /036 W

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P 270530Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1392

INFO: RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SUVA 083

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0151

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL ZURICH

AMEMBASSY BERN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT MORESBY 0386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, PP

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF U.S. CUSTOMS AGENTS

REF: STATE 100071

1. ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND FROM REFTEL THAT AGENTS' ITINERARY AND DATES GIVEN ARE APPROXIMATIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT DATES FOR PORT MORESBY INDICATE AGENTS WILL ARRIVE FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND DEPART MONDAY MORNING 0815 FOR HONIARA. THIS LEAVES APPROXIMATELY THREE WORKING HOURS FOR PORT MORESBY AND GIVEN NUMBER OF COMPLEX ISSUES BETWEEN US CUSTOMS AND PNG CUSTOMS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE AND IMPORTANCE OF INITIAL CONTACT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SUFFICIENT. WE CAN, OF COURSE, ATTEMPT TO SET UP WEEKEND APPOINTMENTS.

2. SECOND PROBLEM RAISED BY TENTATIVE ITINERARY AND DATES IS THAT IF AGENTS ARE TO ARRIVE SINAPORE MAY 12 THEY WILL BE UNABLE TO STOP IN HONIARA, BUT MUST CONTINUE ON TO PORT VILA,
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OVERNIGHT THERE, FLY ON TO NOUMEA TUESDAY TO MAKE 1500 PLANE

FOR SINGAPORE.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS YOU PLAN TO CUT HONIARA FROM ITINERARY AND FLY MONDAY FROM PORT MORESBY TO SYDNEY AND TUESDAY SYDNEY TO SINGAPORE. THIS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER ACCORDING TO TRAVEL AGENT HERE.

4. PREFERABLY, HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD PLAN TO SPEND MINIMUM OF ONE WORKING DAY IN PORT MORESBY WHICH WILL PROBABLY NECESSITATE A REVIEW OF ENTIRE ITINERARY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLS ADVISE FIRM DATES OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, WHETHER YOU WILL CANCEL SOLOMON ISLANDS LEG OF TRIP AND, IF NOT, WHETHER YOU WISH EMBASSY TO ARRANGE VISITS WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS. WE WILL PREPARE SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS IN PORT MORESBY WHEN WE RECEIVE CONFIRMED DATES OF STAY HERE.

6. CONTROL OFFICER IS E/C OFFICER MICHAEL DONOVAN WHO WILL MEET YOU AT AIRPORT. ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE ARRANGED. OLMSTED

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